



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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**RANKING MEMBER**  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

### Testimony

In support of H.B. 5296

*AN ACT CONCERNING COURSE ENROLLMENT FEE WAIVERS FOR  
CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD  
ENROLLED AT CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE*

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

February 28, 2012

Senators Leone and Welch and Representatives Hennessy and Adinolfi and members of the Veterans Affairs Committee:

I respectfully urge that Raised Bill # 5296 be expanded to provide tuition waivers at the University of Connecticut, Connecticut state universities and community colleges for the children of Connecticut service members (as defined by law) who died while on active duty as a direct result of hostile action or were rendered totally and permanently disabled as a direct result of hostile action. The children who would be able to benefit would be those between age 16 and 23 and the proposed waivers would be as an alternative to, and not in addition to, any other education benefit.

There is nothing we can do to compensate these heroes who have actually or effectively given their lives for us. Since they have given their lives, we can at least in some measure recognize their sacrifice by assuring their children an opportunity for a better life.

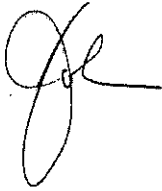
Page 2

Because these are truly special heroes, the numbers are not overwhelming. Since 2002, a total of 60 Connecticut service members have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The total number wounded in Iraq is 235, of which thankfully only a portion were rendered permanently and totally disabled. Many of our fallen heroes undoubtedly died without children and many of our wounded never had the chance to start a family. Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States military sustained a relatively low level of losses extending back until the terrible losses of Vietnam. The point is that the burden of these benefits to the state and our higher education system could be expected to be modest.

Let us honor our fallen and most gravely wounded heroes by giving to their children an opportunity they themselves may have lost in serving us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

John Hetherington  
State Representative